

## Humorous Department.

## CASTOR OIL.

She had her mind made up for two or three days that the boy needed some castor oil, but she knew that his mother would not let her. She placed the bottle where he could see it, and when he turned up his nose she said:

"It's just like honey my darling."

He seemed to doubt her word, and she continued:

"If you'll take some I'll let you go to the circus."

"How much?" he cautiously inquired.

"Oh, only a spoonful—just one spoonful," she replied, as she uncorked the bottle.

"And you'll give me some sugar besides?" he asked.

"Of course I will—a big lump."

He waited until she began pouring from the bottle, and then asked:

"And you'll give me ten cents, too?"

"Yes, of course."

"And you'll buy me a show-fly kite?" he went on, seeing his advantage.

"I guess so."

"No kite, no fly," he said, as he drew back.

"Well, I'll buy you the kite," she replied, filling the spoon clear up.

"And a velocipede?"

"I'll think of it."

"You can't think no castor oil down me!" he exclaimed, looking around for his hat.

"Here—I will, or I'll tease father to, and I know he will. Come, now, swallow it down."

"And you'll buy me a goat?"

"Yes."

"And two hundred marbles?"

"Yes. Now take it right down."

"And a coach dog?"

"I can't promise that."

"All right; no dog, no fly."

"Well, I'll ask your father."

"And you'll buy me a pony?"

"Oh, I couldn't do that. Now be a good boy and swallow it down."

"Oh, yes, I'll swallow that stuff, I will!" he said, as he clapped on his hat. "You may fool some other boy with a circus ticket and a lump of brown sugar, but I'll take a hundred dollar pony to trot that castor oil down my throat!"

And he went out to see if the neighbor's cat had been caught in the dead fall he set for her.

**THE ORIGINAL INFLATIONIST.**

This doctrine of inflating the currency by issuing an unlimited amount of greenbacks, reminds us of one Moses Hawks, who used to live in Allegany and run a newspaper and shingle shanty. The newspaper was run during the period of publishing the tax-lists, and Moses shaved shingles the rest of the year.

Hawks was a great man in that burgh; and, as currency was scarce in the community because no one had anything to purchase it with, a bright idea struck him. He went into his office one morning and printed a large batch of promises to pay—quarters, halves, and dollars—and occupied himself for several days in affixing the autograph of Moses Hawks to every one of them.

He was now a wealthy man, and possessed of unlimited resources. He bought everything offered for sale, and paid in his new currency, and also loaned it to his neighbors.

The thing worked like a charm until tax time, when something better was required. Everybody had sold their "truck" and taken Hawks' currency in payment. The people flocked to Hawks and demanded redemption. He redeemed by issuing a new batch of scrip and more of it. Prior to that the scrip had passed currently among the people, but the new issue had so inflated the "currency" that the people refused to receive it longer, having been so plentiful as to be worthless.

Merchants and dealers had sold their goods for the scrip, but could not buy more with it. Hawks was bankrupt and could not redeem, and the people were in a bad plight.

One morning a stranger presented himself to Hawks and demanded that he should redeem some that he (the stranger) had received at Sagatuck, where he had been to look after some business matters. Hawks declined the accommodation. The stranger then asked:

"This is good, is it not, Mr. Hawks?"

"Good thunder!" replied Hawks, and child within fifty miles of the place has from a peck to half bushel of it."

"But, Mr. Hawks, you redeem, don't you?"

"Redeem!" exclaimed Hawks; "it wasn't made to redeem; it was made to circulate."

**PARIS GREEN.**—A grizzly-looking man dropped into a drug-store the other day, and found the proprietor very busy compounding prescriptions, but he felt his money and came out in the hope of selling something to the stranger.

The latter leaned over the counter, and to the great relief of the tooth-brushes within, and drawing the chemist's ear close to his mouth, whispered, huskily:

"Get out any Paris green?"

"Yes."

"Is it solid stuff that will send a fellow flying across 'the beautiful, the beautiful river,' like a duck across a mill-pond?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, give me five cents' worth of gumdrops."

The man gave them to him, and continued:

"What in thunder do you mean by wasting my time talking about Paris green when you don't want any?"

"Because I know some families that are starting to death—if it is a burden to them, and I want to see if I can't sell some for you on commission."

**A MILD SUGGESTION.**—A country clergyman who had been accustomed to minister to the spiritual needs of a congregation in the backwoods, was called to occupy the pulpit of an alert metropolitan brother. The day being excessive hot, and his sermon exceedingly long, he made his preparation accordingly. He first removed his cravat and then his collar and cuffs, and then his coat, and was proceeding to get rid of his vest, when there was a stir among the worshippers, and one of them, rising, said in a deep, deliberate voice, "I don't know what may be the brother's intention; but perhaps it might as well be understood, before he goes any further, that this isn't a bath-house." He preached with his vest on.

**ARREST.**—A colored woman, a few days since, inquired of her husband what was the meaning of arrest. She said, "I hear so much 'bout being under 'arrest'; what does it mean?"

"Why," said the colored defender thus appealed to, "and—why—arrest, backwoods, was called to occupy the pulpit of an alert metropolitan brother. The day being excessive hot, and his sermon exceedingly long, he made his preparation accordingly. He first removed his cravat and then his collar and cuffs, and then his coat, and was proceeding to get rid of his vest, when there was a stir among the worshippers, and one of them, rising, said in a deep, deliberate voice, "I don't know what may be the brother's intention; but perhaps it might as well be understood, before he goes any further, that this isn't a bath-house." He preached with his vest on.

**A WET RAIN.**—A clergyman, meeting a little boy of his acquaintance, said, "This is quite a stormy day, my son." "Yes, sir," answered the boy, "this is quite a wet rain."

The clergyman, thinking to rebuke such hyperbole, asked if he ever knew of any other than a wet rain. "I never knew personally of any other," returned the boy, "but I have read in a certain book of a time when it rained fire and brimstone, and I guess that was not a wet rain."

**"Thunder."** exclaimed a man, rushing into a railroad telegraph station the other day. "The express train's gone off the big bridge!"

"Many killed, many killed!" screamed the bystanders. "Not a one," replied the other. "She just went on at one end and went off at the other, just as usual!"

**An Englishman** was boasting to a Yankee that he had a book in the British Museum which was once owned by Cicero. "O, that ain't nothing," retorted the Yankee; "in the museum in Boston they've got the lead pencil that Noah used to check off the animals that went into the ark."

## Agricultural Department.

## SAVING SEED CORN.

This is an item that a great majority of farmers pass by unnoticed. In the fall of the year they gather their corn and put it in pens, good and inferior together. When the season comes to plant corn the farmer gets upon the top of the heap and selects out those ears that are the finest-looking, and which are likely to be the soundest for seed, never knowing what kind of a stalk produced them—whether it was a thrifty and well matured stalk, or what position the ear occupied on the stalk, either high up or low down toward the ground. In a few years he finds his corn has hybridized and runs out, and he wants a new kind; for that which has been raised for a succession of years on the same farm or immediate neighborhood is of little value when compared with carefully selected seed. The general conclusion is that it yields a small amount to the acre, weighs light to the bushel, and matures late. We should remember that every new stalk raised is more or less a new variety; and to have corn constantly improving great care should be taken to save the very best.

1. In gathering corn, take such ears only as are the finest and from the most prolific stalks.

2. Never take from a stalk having but one ear, or large or thrifty stalks can be found with two or more good-sized ears. Generally but one of them is fit for seed, and that usually the second from the ground. But if the lowest is best, take that.

3. Always take ears that are filled out to the end, and that run beyond the husk, if such can be found.

When you come to plant, before shelling, break every ear and see if the pith of the cob is dried up; for if it is not, the corn is not ripe.

If farmers would pursue this course yearly, their crops would be greatly increased and improved.

**THE BARN-YARD.**—The barn-yard may be taken as the index of the character of the farmer. As is the barn-yard, so is the farm and the farmer. It is well that all of us should remember that in this case it is no figure of speech to say that "straws show which way the wind blows." The arrangement of the barn-yard is not for show altogether. The profits of the farm depend to a great extent upon it. It is in the yard and the barn that the produce of the farm which is not sold outright is converted into beef, pork, mutton, wool, or milk and butter—articles that may be more profitably sold. It is in the yard also that the manure is made and kept. The barn and barn-yard are the manufactory of the farm; and if they are not arranged with a view to economy, a large waste results that reduces the farmer's profit. The majority of the farmers in this country, for instance, begin business with small means, and do the best they can with the materials they possess.

The excellence of farm-buildings does not consist so much in the materials of which they are built, as in the use made of those materials. Useful buildings may be made of logs or prairie sods, or poles and coarse hay; and these, by skillful arrangement, may be made to serve as useful a purpose as dressed lumber and paint, or pressed bricks. The main points are warmth, dryness, and ventilation; for food is wasted when an animal shivers in its stable, and when its health is injured by damp, filth, or bad air. A farmer who is thoughtful about such small things as this—although this is more important than it appears—may be taken to be a careful, thrifty man, and will be able to build a barn with all the modern improvements, and to build it properly too. The old proverb, "Take care of the small things, and the large ones will take care of themselves," is applicable to matters about farms and barn-yards especially. When the small things are well watched, large ones are not forgotten.—*American Agriculturalist.*

**THE COUNTRY THE PLACE FOR MECHANICS.**—The demand for mechanics in country places is always growing. It is a mistake to suppose that carpenters, bricklayers, and masons need to crowd into a city to find employment. In the country, where a mechanic can have a few acres of land, upon which he may spend part of his time not otherwise occupied, he need never be short of work. He can keep a horse, and ride to his work, losing less time in doing so, than if he lived in a city. He can keep a cow, pigs and fowls, and raise, with the help of his children, a large share of his supplies. His family will have better health, and enjoy themselves much more in the country than in the city. They may dress less expensively, will wear out fewer clothes, and rent will not have to be provided for every month, or if it has, it will be but a trifle compared with city rents. Farmers everywhere are improving their buildings, putting up better barns and fences, and competent country mechanics could procure profitable jobs, and could do the work at much cheaper rates than in cities. One well finished job brings others, for nothing is so catching as improvement, and our experience has been that farmers who have improved their barns or houses, because of the difficulty in procuring competent mechanics at a reasonable price. There are very few good farmers now in the east or the west, that are not able to have good farm-buildings, and at the present time, village mechanics have more steady employment, and can save more money, if they earn less, than those who work in the cities.

**JUMPING SHEEP.**—A stock-raiser says: If sheep are addicted to the vice of jumping, take a board about two feet long, five or six inches wide, and one inch thick, and fasten it to the sheep's back, and let it hang down against its knees. When the sheep attempts to jump, the board prevents a foothold on the fence and throws them back. A few trials satisfy them. The worst jumpers can be cured in this way. Last year I had nine which were bad jumpers that no fence could stop them. I fixed them in the way above described and had no further trouble. At the same time the board will prevent much running about, and cause them to fatten better by remaining more quiet.

**VALUE OF SOAP-SUDS.**—However deplorable washing-day may be to the household (and the careful house-mistress or tidy maid has it in her power to greatly modify its discomforts), to the garden it is a very beautiful day. Our hungry and thirsty grape-vines and flowers are glad of every drop of wash-water, and will repay every bit of fatigue it may cost us to give them the fertilizer. If the sun is shining hot when we go out to do our washing, it is best for us to dig a slight trench for water from the root of the plant, and pour the water into it, and cover again with the top-soil. This makes the water go further, and at the same time does not tempt the rootlets to the surface of the ground.

**CHOKED CATTLE.**—To remove a potato or other obstruction from the throat of a cow, or other animals: Draw the tongue from the mouth and pour a teaspoon of melted lard down the throat. In a few minutes after throw a handful of fat into the mouth, which will produce a cough and remove the obstruction.

**Not a very wet rain.**

**"Thunder."** exclaimed a man, rushing into a railroad telegraph station the other day. "The express train's gone off the big bridge!"

"Many killed, many killed!" screamed the bystanders. "Not a one," replied the other. "She just went on at one end and went off at the other, just as usual!"

**An Englishman** was boasting to a Yankee that he had a book in the British Museum which was once owned by Cicero. "O, that ain't nothing," retorted the Yankee; "in the museum in Boston they've got the lead pencil that Noah used to check off the animals that went into the ark."

**THE ORIGINAL INFLATIONIST.**

This doctrine of inflating the currency by issuing an unlimited amount of greenbacks, reminds us of one Moses Hawks, who used to live in Allegany and run a newspaper and shingle shanty. The newspaper was run during the period of publishing the tax-lists, and Moses shaved shingles the rest of the year.

Hawks was a great man in that burgh; and, as currency was scarce in the community because no one had anything to purchase it with, a bright idea struck him. He went into his office one morning and printed a large batch of promises to pay—quarters, halves, and dollars—and occupied himself for several days in affixing the autograph of Moses Hawks to every one of them.

He was now a wealthy man, and possessed of unlimited resources. He bought everything offered for sale, and paid in his new currency, and also loaned it to his neighbors.

The thing worked like a charm until tax time, when something better was required. Everybody had sold their "truck" and taken Hawks' currency in payment. The people flocked to Hawks and demanded redemption. He redeemed by issuing a new batch of scrip and more of it. Prior to that the scrip had passed currently among the people, but the new issue had so inflated the "currency" that the people refused to receive it longer, having been so plentiful as to be worthless.

Merchants and dealers had sold their goods for the scrip, but could not buy more with it. Hawks was bankrupt and could not redeem, and the people were in a bad plight.

One morning a stranger presented himself to Hawks and demanded that he should redeem some that he (the stranger) had received at Sagatuck, where he had been to look after some business matters. Hawks declined the accommodation. The stranger then asked:

"This is good, is it not, Mr. Hawks?"

"Good thunder!" replied Hawks, and child within fifty miles of the place has from a peck to half bushel of it."

"But, Mr. Hawks, you redeem, don't you?"

"Redeem!" exclaimed Hawks; "it wasn't made to redeem; it was made to circulate."

**PARIS GREEN.**—A grizzly-looking man dropped into a drug-store the other day, and found the proprietor very busy compounding prescriptions, but he felt his money and came out in the hope of selling something to the stranger.

The latter leaned over the counter, and to the great relief of the tooth-brushes within, and drawing the chemist's ear close to his mouth, whispered, huskily:

"Get out any Paris green?"

"Yes."

"Is it solid stuff that will send a fellow flying across 'the beautiful, the beautiful river,' like a duck across a mill-pond?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, give me five cents' worth of gumdrops."

The man gave them to him, and continued:

"What in thunder do you mean by wasting my time talking about Paris green when you don't want any?"

"Because I know some families that are starting to death—if it is a burden to them, and I want to see if I can't sell some for you on commission."

**A MILD SUGGESTION.**—A country clergyman who had been accustomed to minister to the spiritual needs of a congregation in the backwoods, was called to occupy the pulpit of an alert metropolitan brother. The day being excessive hot, and his sermon exceedingly long, he made his preparation accordingly. He first removed his cravat and then his collar and cuffs, and then his coat, and was proceeding to get rid of his vest, when there was a stir among the worshippers, and one of them, rising, said in a deep, deliberate voice, "I don't know what may be the brother's intention; but perhaps it might as well be understood, before he goes any further, that this isn't a bath-house." He preached with his vest on.

**ARREST.**—A colored woman, a few days since, inquired of her husband what was the meaning of arrest. She said, "I hear so much 'bout being under 'arrest'; what does it mean?"

"Why," said the colored defender thus appealed to, "and—why—arrest, backwoods, was called to occupy the pulpit of an alert metropolitan brother. The day being excessive hot, and his sermon exceedingly long, he made his preparation accordingly. He first removed his cravat and then his collar and cuffs, and then his coat, and was proceeding to get rid of his vest, when there was a stir among the worshippers, and one of them, rising, said in a deep, deliberate voice, "I don't know what may be the brother's intention; but perhaps it might as well be understood, before he goes any further, that this isn't a bath-house." He preached with his vest on.

**A WET RAIN.**—A clergyman, meeting a little boy of his acquaintance, said, "This is quite a stormy day, my son." "Yes, sir," answered the boy, "this is quite a wet rain."

The clergyman, thinking to rebuke such hyperbole, asked if he ever knew of any other than a wet rain. "I never knew personally of any other," returned the boy, "but I have read in a certain book of a time when it rained fire and brimstone, and I guess that was not a wet rain."

**"Thunder."** exclaimed a man, rushing into a railroad telegraph station the other day. "The express train's gone off the big bridge!"

"Many killed, many killed!" screamed the bystanders. "Not a one," replied the other. "She just went on at one end and went off at the other, just as usual!"

**An Englishman** was boasting to a Yankee that he had a book in the British Museum which was once owned by Cicero. "O, that ain't nothing," retorted the Yankee; "in the museum in Boston they've got the lead pencil that Noah used to check off the animals that went into the ark."

**THE ORIGINAL INFLATIONIST.**

This doctrine of inflating the currency by issuing an unlimited amount of greenbacks, reminds us of one Moses Hawks, who used to live in Allegany and run a newspaper and shingle shanty. The newspaper was run during the period of publishing the tax-lists, and Moses shaved shingles the rest of the year.

Hawks was a great man in that burgh; and, as currency was scarce in the community because no one had anything to purchase it with, a bright idea struck him. He went into his office one morning and printed a large batch of promises to pay—quarters, halves, and dollars—and occupied himself for several days in affixing the autograph of Moses Hawks to every one of them.

He was now a wealthy man, and possessed of unlimited resources. He bought everything offered for sale, and paid in his new currency, and also loaned it to his neighbors.

The thing worked like a charm until tax time, when something better was required. Everybody had sold their "truck" and taken Hawks' currency in payment. The people flocked to Hawks and demanded redemption. He redeemed by issuing a new batch of scrip and more of it. Prior to that the scrip had passed currently among the people, but the new issue had so inflated the "currency" that the people refused to receive it longer, having been so plentiful as to be worthless.

Merchants and dealers had sold their goods for the scrip, but could not buy more with it. Hawks was bankrupt and could not redeem, and the people were in a bad plight.

One morning a stranger presented himself to Hawks and demanded that he should redeem some that he (the stranger) had received at Sagatuck, where he had been to look after some business matters. Hawks declined the accommodation. The stranger then asked:

"This is good, is it not, Mr. Hawks?"

"Good thunder!" replied Hawks, and child within fifty miles of the place has from a peck to half bushel of it."

"But, Mr. Hawks, you redeem, don't you?"

"Redeem!" exclaimed Hawks; "it wasn't made to redeem; it was made to circulate."

**PARIS GREEN.**—A grizzly-looking man dropped into a drug-store the other day, and found the proprietor very busy compounding prescriptions, but he felt his money and came out in the hope of selling something to the stranger.

The latter leaned over the counter, and to the great relief of the tooth-brushes within, and drawing the chemist's ear close to his mouth, whispered, huskily:

"Get out any Paris green?"

"Yes."

"Is it solid stuff that will send a fellow flying across 'the beautiful, the beautiful river,' like a duck across a mill-pond?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, give me five cents' worth of gumdrops."

The man gave them to him, and continued:

"What in thunder do you mean by wasting my time talking about Paris green when you don't want any?"

"Because I know some families that are starting to death—if it is a burden to them, and I want to see if I can't sell some for you on commission."

## Children's Department.

## NELLIE AND HER FATHER'S PROMISE.

Nellie Parsons, an American girl, went to school in the country. It was about a mile from her home. It was too far for her to walk in the winter. Her father always sent her to school in the morning in a carriage or sleigh, and brought her home at night in the same way.

One afternoon he stopped at the school-house; and calling Nellie out, he said: "I am going along the road several miles, and may not return until after school is out. But wait for me till I come. I will be here before dark."

When school was out, the children wrapped themselves in their cloaks and over-coats and shawls, and set out for home.

"Are you not going?" asked one of the last that left the school-room, as she saw Nellie take her seat by the stove.

"Father told me to wait for him," said Nellie.

"Are you not afraid to stay here alone?"

"What is there to be afraid of? It is pleasant and warm here."

"I should be afraid to stay here alone," said the girl; "it will be dark pretty soon."

"Father said he would be here before dark."

"What will you do if he does not come?"

"Father will come for me; for he said he would."

Nellie was left alone. Time seemed to move very slowly, the sun went down, and it began to be gloomy. She went to the door and looked out for her father. He was not in sight, although from the door of the school house you could see nearly a mile along the road. Presently a man came along with a yoke of oxen and a sleigh. He was a neighbor of theirs.

"What are you doing here?" he asked of Nellie, when he saw her standing in the door.

"I am waiting for father," was her answer.

"It will soon be dark," he said; "you had better get upon my sleigh and go as far as my house. It would not be pleasant for you to stay here all night."

"Father will be sure to come for me," said Nellie; "he told me to wait for him until he came."

It was nearly dark, not quite, when her father drove up to the door. He had driven far to get there. He had been kept longer than he had expected, and he had left his business unfinished in order to keep his promise and get back to his child before dark.

"Were you not afraid I would not come, Nellie?" he asked as he wrapped her up in the warm buffalo rug.

"No, father," was the child's answer, "you said you would come, and I knew I could trust you."

**"KEEP THE GATE SHUT."**

An English farmer was one day at work in his fields when he saw a party of huntsmen riding about on his farm. He had one field that he was especially anxious they should not ride over, as the crop was in a condition to be badly injured by the tramp of the horses. So he dispatched one of his workmen to this field, telling him to shut the gate, and then keep watch over it, and on no account to suffer it to be opened. The boy went as he was bidden; but was scarcely at his post before the hunters came up, peremptorily ordering the gate to be opened. This the boy declined to do, stating the orders he had received, and his determination not to disobey them. Threats and bribes were offered, alike in vain. One after another came forward as spokesmen, but all with the same result; the boy remained immovable in the determination not to open the gate. After a while, one of noble presence advanced, and said in commanding tones: "My boy, do you know me? I am the Duke of Wellington, one not accustomed to be disobeyed; and I command you to open that gate, that I and my friends may pass through."

The boy lifted his cap, and stood unmoved before the duke, who, then answered firmly: "I am sure the Duke of Wellington would not wish me to disobey orders. I must keep this gate shut, nor suffer any one to pass but with my master's express permission."

Greatly pleased, the sturdy old warrior lifted his own hat, and said: "I honor the boy or man who can be neither bribed nor frightened into doing wrong. With an army of such soldiers, I could conquer not only the French but the world." And handing the boy a glittering sovereign, the old Duke put spurs to his horse and galloped away, while the boy ran off to his work, shouting at the top of his voice: "Hurrah, hurrah! I've done what Napoleon couldn't do—I've kept out the Duke of Wellington!"

Every boy is a gate-keeper, and his master's command is, "Be thou faithful unto death." Are you tempted to drink, to smoke, or chew tobacco? Keep the gate of your mouth fast closed, and allow no evil company to enter. When evil companions would counsel you to break the Sabbath, to lie, to deal falsely, to disobey your parents, keep the gate of your ears fast shut against such enticements, and when the bold blasphemer would instill doubts of the great truths of revelation, then keep the door of your heart locked and barred against his infamous suggestions, remembering that it is only the fool that said in his heart, there is no God.—*Christian Weekly.*

**LOOK OUT FOR THE ROCKS.**—A gentleman crossing the English Channel, stood near the helmsman. It was a calm and pleasant evening, and none dreamed of a possible danger to their good ship. But as the wind shifted, caught the ear of the officer on watch, and he sprang at once to the wheel, examining closely the compass.

"You are half a point off the course," he said sharply to the man at the wheel. The deviation was corrected, and the officer returned to his post.

"You must steer very accurately," said the lookout on, "when only half a point is so much thought of."

"Ah! half